

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Kindly replace the paragraph [0004] on page 2 with the following paragraph, which incorporates the changes as shown:*

[0004] Methanol is a known fermentation raw material which is available in large amounts at a low cost. Methods for producing L-amino acids by fermentation using methanol are known, and include methods using microorganisms that belong to the genus *Achromobacter* or *Pseudomonas* (Japanese Patent Publication Laid-open (Kokai Kokoku) No. 45-25273), *Protaminobacter* (Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication (Kokoku Kokai) No. 49-125590), *Protaminobacter* or *Methanomonas* (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 50-25790), *Microcyclus* (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 52-18886), *Methylobacillus* (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 4-91793), *Bacillus* (Japanese translation of PCT international application Patent (Kohyo) Laid-open No. 3-505284 (WO90/12105)) and so forth. The inventors of the present invention have developed methods for producing L-amino acids by breeding *Methylophilus* bacteria using artificial mutagenesis and recombinant DNA techniques (WO 00/61723).